



H. R. Haldeman Diaries Collection, January 18, 1969 – April 30, 1973

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Thursday, September 18.

UN Day. President didn't come in to the office. We left at 9:30, to New York. He gave a very good speech and was very good at reading it. Reaction was pretty lukewarm. They did finally stand and clap when he was introduced and came in, but there was no applause during the speech and they did not stand at the end. The General Assembly was full - all the delegates and audience seats. Small crowd in front, all very friendly. Met with lady President of General Assembly, and then with U Thant. Really a useless bunch. Kissinger says U Thant told him he should replace Thieu with a stronger leader in Vietnam. Some gall!

Then to the Waldorf for private meetings with Foreign Ministers. Worked very well on our schedule of fifteen and twenty minute appointments. Really had to hustle. Decided to go to "21" for dinner after our reception. Ran into ZsaZsa, Gina Lollobrigida, Dorothy Lamour and Henry Ford. Shook hands after with crowd waiting in the street. Interesting, because LBJ couldn't even appear in public in New York - our reception most friendly and enthusiastic all through the city, and no anti demonstrators.

I spent the whole flight back with Pat Nixon, about her White House Preservation Committee, and her staffing thoughts. She's determined to run her own operation in the East Wing - which is the right approach - but she will have to have a better staff to do it right. Good first step is her increased interest. Can build from there.

Harlow called in New York to urge President take over Laird's plan to announce draft cuts. Feels it will be the best news we've put out yet. I talked to President and he agreed - and was very pleased to learn Laird was willing to do it. So we swung into action and switched Laird's press conference tomorrow to the White House. Press all intrigued with what's happening. The shift itself built up interest.

President called Kissinger late tonight really upset by the Green Beret announcement of court martial - which topped his UN story in the *Star* headlines. Justifiably furious with Defense for



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letting this happen. And feels it's my fault because no PR control, but Kissinger told him I didn't even know about it. Also huge problem with Ross Perot.